(e) what steps the Government propose to take to stop this drain and eliminate middlemen in purchases of pulses by Super Bazar/ Civil Supplies Corporations?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) NCCF has supplied 10,678 MTs. of pulses to the Super Bazar from November, 1986 to October, 1987.

(b) t_0 (d) Purchases of pulses by the NCCF for supply to Super Bazar are made on the basis of quotations invited from enlisted brokers!suppliers by a committee constituted for this purpose after verifying the market rates. In view of this, the supply of pulses 6s made by the NCCF to Super Bazar at mutually accepted rates. For institutionalisation of purchases, cooperatives engaged in retailing are generally advised to make purchases from National-level Federations. The purchases of Super Bazar from the NCCF are made *in* pursuance of such principles.

(e) Does not arise

Supply of Gramdal to Army Purchase Organisation by NCFC

2082. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NCCF get an order for since of Gramdal to Army Purchase Organisation (APO) recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the NCCF has entered into an agreement of purchasing Gramdal from M/s. K. S. Food Products, Morena (Madhya Pradesh) without any advertisement for supplying contracted stocks to APO;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in another case of supply of pulses by the NCCF to FCI/APO, the CBI had recommended prosecution of M/s. *K.* S. Food Products, Morena for supplying sub-standard pulses at exorbitant price to the NCCF;

(d) if so, what are the considerations for contracting by the NCCF with a charged firm and who are the officers involved in this bungling; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to stop such malpractices In the NCCF by its officers in collusion with the traders?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (e) NCCF has informed that on the basis of floating of queries and lowest rates offered, they entered into an agreement with M|s. K. S. Food Products, Morena for supply of Gramdal to Army Purchase Organisation (APO). NCCF has further informed that the contract with the party \as now been terminated, because of its indictment in the CBI Report. NCCF has also been advised to strictly follow financial and procedural norms laid down for making such purchases.

Production of edible oil

2083. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantum of edible oil (i) produced in the country, (ii) imported, (iii) exported in the last three years and the net quantum available for consumption uptodate;

(b) whether the edible oil situation is satisfactory: and

(c) what are the reasons for present $crisi_s$ in edible oil situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN. TARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

(SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) In the last three oil years 1984-85 to 1986 87, the estimated production of edible oils was 103 lakh tonnes and imports were 40.44 lakh tonnes (Prov.). These quantities were available for consumption.

(b) The gap between the demand for and supply of edible oil in the country continues.

(c) The main reasons for the short fall are (i) lower production of oilseeds during the last two years and (ii) way-ward behaviour of monsoon.

Vacant posts in Steel Plants under SAIL

2084. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY;
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in different steel plants under the SAIL, plant-wise; and since when these posts are lying vacant; and

(b) by when these posts are likely to be filled up and steps taken to fill up all the vacant posts, if any,so far?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Manpower studies in different steel plants indicates that there is surplus manpower in different areas of the steel plants. These studies are still continuing in SAIL. In these circumstances, there are no vacancies in the steel plants on an overall basis. However, whenever vacancies due to turnover or new requirements occur from time to time, these are filled up generally by promotion or redeployment, and recourse to outside recruitment is taken only for filling up key posts which cannot be manned from within.

Elections to Panchayat Bodies

2085. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKH ERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the names of the States where elections to Panchayats were held at regular intervals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMAN AND YADAV): Names of States/UTs where elections to Panchayats were held on dates between 1983 and 1987 are as under:

(1) Assam
(2)) Gujarat
(3) Haryana
(4) Himachal Pradesh
(5) Karnataka
(6) Madhya Pradesh
(7) Maharashtra
(8) Orissa
(9) Manipur
(10) Punjab
(11) Sikkim
(12) Tripura
(13) Tamil Nadu
(14) West Bengal
(15) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
(16) Arunachal Pradesh
(17) Chandigarh
(18) Dadra & Nagar Haveli
(19) Delhi
(20) Goa, Daman & Diu

Clearance of Schemes under ARWSP

2086. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is State-wise number of schemes received by Government under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) from 1st April, 1987 to 31st October, 1987;